



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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2/13/2013 Minutes

Town of Arlington

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of 2/13/13, 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Town Hall Annex, Second Floor Conf. Room.

Minutes submitted by Laura Wiener.

Members and Associates Present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Wayne Chouinard, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise, Corey Rateau, Ed Starr, Richard Turcotte, Laura Wiener

Missing Members and Associates: Jean Clark, Paul Kent, John Lentz, Scott Smith

Members of the Public Present: Bob Radochia, Chris Tonkin, Adam Auster

- Public Comments. None

- Administration.

- Minutes of 1/9/13 were approved unanimously.

- Correspondence and other handouts were reviewed.

- Town reports.

- Wayne Chouinard submitted a written report. Flashing beacon at bikepath/Mill Street crossing is working.

- Laura reported that a request came to TAC via the Selectmen about moving the bus stop on Medford Street at Regent Theatre. WG needed—Howard, Corey and Laura.

- Joint Meeting with Arlington Bike Advisory Committee (ABAC). TAC was joined by Chris Tonkin, Jack Johnson, Joey Glushko, Stephan Miller, Sam Milton, Doug Greenfield, Phil Goff, Ron Sender and Adam Auster.

- Draft Context Sensitive Bike Facility Design Guide Matrix. Wayne said it is helpful to have guidance, but in the end DPW has to see how the road lays out, so has to be flexible. Because this is a policy recommendation and not a regulation, does not need to go to Selectmen. Not intended to result in removing parking.

- CLAMP. Laura gave an update. MassDOT public hearing expected in late March. Current plan adds bike lane, preserves parking, reduces median.

- Mass. Ave. Corridor. Laura reported FHWA is requiring another public hearing because of claims that there was not enough public input. Howard noted new analysis uses brand new software. TAC will write a letter to FHWA and MassDOT supporting project.

- Joint meeting adjourned at 8:15.

- Safe Streets Warrant Article. Adam Auster was present for discussion of this warrant article that he submitted, advocating making pedestrian safety as a priority in road design. Selectmen are having a hearing on it Feb. 25. Howard felt it wasn't enough time to study it and form a recommendation. He was uncomfortable with phrase "greatest pedestrian safety that is feasible". Jeff said that pedestrian safety is right at top of TAC priorities, but still need to consider all modes.

Ed noted that TAC's decision criteria is "safety, mobility, equity, environment and public health". Corey thought it might be too inflexible. Adam said he was willing to make a change in language if needed. Elisabeth added that TAC is sympathetic with intent but this may not be the right way to do it. TAC declined to write a report on the article for Selectmen.

- Mass/Jason/Mill. Jeff reported that this is one of the highest accident locations in town. Not proposing any change for Mass. Ave. traffic. Proposing Mill St. exclusive left turn lane and shared through/right lane, and Jason St. exclusive right turn lane and shared through/left lane. Reduce width of Jason traffic island to accommodate 2 approach lanes. Change pedestrian crossing to 3 second advance crossing time across Mass. Ave. concurrent with cars turning right. Corey asked if the audible signals could still be accommodated. Jeff will check. Discussed prohibiting parking during morning peak (7:30 to 8:30 am) on Mill Street near the signal. Corey noted that it was the only parking for the auto shops. Jeff suggested that we get this approved and test it and then look at parking. There is \$42,000 remaining in the escrow account funded by CVS. Should be enough or close to it. Recommendations maintain capacity of the intersection while improving safety. Voted unanimously to approve recommendation to ARB and Selectmen. Jeff will write up recommendation.
- Jason Street Cut-through traffic. Looking at traffic counts and classification of vehicles at 10 intersections. Wayne said that Engineering can pay for analysis. Rich will check locations.
- Mill Street Flashing Beacon. It is up and running. Town perhaps should put out something on Town announcements. Flashes yellow to drivers when pedestrian or bike is coming. WG should go to ARB in March to discuss. Wayne will field test for best timing.
- Churchill/Gray. Wayne reported that he and Corey met at site, measured the stopping distance. It is about 168', not appropriate for 30 mph. Perhaps a speed plaque would help.
- Arlington Center Parking Study. Consensus is emerging around a couple of issues. Make parking time limits more uniform (2 hours). Meters on Mass. Ave. Meters in parking lot allow longer times than street parking. Howard will write up data, Laura will write up recommendations to Selectmen. Try to get it to Selectmen before Town Meeting.
- "No Right on Red" sign on Forest at Summer. Request from resident to consider placing a sign restricting right turns on red here. Visibility appears good. Wayne will look at it.
- Peirce School Drop-off on Newland. Request from a parent. Elisabeth has made observations and will discuss it with the Peirce Safe Routes to Schools Coordinators.
- Mass/Brattle. A resident requested investigation of prohibiting parking in front of 1049 Mass. Ave. Corey will look at it.

Meeting Materials:

- Meeting Packet for December: Agenda, 2/13/13; Minutes of 1/9/13; Working Group List, 2/13/13; BoS/ARB Request Status, 2/13/13, Individual Action List from 1/9/13; Status of TAC Approved Actions, 2/13/13; Bylaw Amendment/Safe Streets; Mill Street Flashing Beacon, Brighams Special Permit Traffic Conditions, Approved December 13, 2010; Bikepath Counts, 1/22/2013; Email from Ed Starr to RV Print Solutions (Bob Valeri), Re. Question for TAC, dated 2/11/2013; Email from Wayne Chouinard to Elisabeth Carr-Jones and Ruth Smolash Re. 2 requests for signage, dated January 25, 2013; Email from Wayne Chouinard to Howard Muise and Jeffrey Maxtutis Re. TAC Agenda Item, dated January 15, 2013.
- Mass. Ave., Jason Street, & Mill Street Materials--Pedestrian Crossing Counts—, Nov. 29, 2012; Summary of Existing Conditions, December 11, 2012; Existing Conditions Analysis, Future No-Build, Future Conditions Comparison; Mass Ave/Mill St/Jason Street Intersection Improvements, Recommendations 2/13/2013.
- Memo to Board of Selectmen from Transportation Advisory Committee Re. Information: Crosswalk at Egerton Road and Herbert Road, dated 2/3/2013;
- Memo to TAC From WAC, Dated 3/13/13, Re. TAC Update Items
- Draft Context Sensitive Bike Facility Design Guide Matrix, Arlington BAC/TAC Roadway Restriping Working Group—January, 2013.

